(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(d) what is the requirement of Nitrogenous fertilizers and the quantity produced in the country per annum?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir, a Study Group was constituted to suggest the number, size, location and feedstock of new nitrogenous fertilizer plants to be set up in the country during the VIII Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir, the report of the Study Group was received in May, 1987.

(c) In view of the reply to (b) above, question does not arise.

(d) The assessed demand for nitrogenous fertilizer for the year 1989-90 is 77 lakh tonnes in terms of nutrients whereas the likely production of nitrogen in the country is estimated to be 70 lakh tonnes.

Availability of aluminium phosphate in open market

*378. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aluminium phosphate a fumigant pesticide is licensed to be produced only by public storage agencies under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971;

(b) whether Government are aware of its free availablity in the open market in violation of the Act and Rules; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No, Sir. No such pesticide is registered for use or manufacture in the country or import.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Contribution of agriculture in national growth and employment

*379. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural sector contributes only 33% to the national growth while out of the total employment, 75% is in agricultural sector;

(b) what steps are being taken to improve productivity and the total share of agriculture in the national growth; and

(c) what steps are being taken to channelise agricultural employment into allied fields in the rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The share of agriculture to the net domestic product at current prices is provisionally placed at 29.3% for 1987-88. According to the 1981 Census, 66.5% of the main workers in the country are engaged in agriculture.

(b) Special Thrust Programmes like Special Foodgrains Production Programme, Special Rice Production Programme in the Eastern States, National Oilseeds Development Project, Oilseeds Production Thrust Project, National Pulses Development Programme, etc. and other schemes are being implemented to improve the productivity of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and other crops. These Programme will contribute towards growth in the income from the agricultural sector

(c) Promotion of rural employment in the agriculture and allied sectors through diversification is being encouraged through the Rural Development Programmes.